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AGO ltr 29 Apr 1980 ; AGO ltr 29 Apr 1980	

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(11) 87-RD-670026

HEADQUARTERS
BATTALION, 18TH ARTILLERY
APO 96490

AVFA-AT-3/18

29 Jan 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period
ending 31 January 1967

Operational rept. for quarterly
period ending 31 Jan 67.

TO: Commanding Officer
52nd Artillery Group
APO 96295

Lessons Learned [Headquarters,
3D Battalion,] 18th Artillery

APR 29 1968

SECTION I: Significant Activities

1. At the start of the reporting period the battalion was supporting the 1st Cavalry Division on Operation Thayer I/Irving and the 101st Airborne Division on Operation Geronimo. "A" Battery and the battalion command group were located vic Phu My at LZ Crystal (BR 895659), "B" Battery was located vic Tuy Hoa (CQ 116438), "C" Battery and "E" Battery were located vic Phu My in LZ Uplift (BR 927755). On 1 November 1966, "E" Battery moved to Camp Radcliff (BR467488) to support the base defense mission. On 2 November 1966, "C" Battery moved to LZ Oasis (ZA 073219) to support the 1st ACD and 4th Division on Operation Paul Revere IV. On 3 November 1966, "C" Battery moved to vic Plei Djereng (YA 856536) to better support Paul Revere IV. On 21 November 1966, "B" Battery moved to vic CQ 130524 with the mission of GSR 5/27th Artillery. On 30 November 1966, "C" Battery returned to base camp (BR 467488) for a short period. During this move the "C" Battery Executive Officer and Chief of Firing Battery were injured by a mine. On 1 December 1966, "B" Battery moved further north to vic CQ 070715, mission unchanged. On 5 December 1966, "C" Battery moved to the Vinh Thanh Valley (BR 615607) and the battalion forward command post moved to LZ Hammond (BR 880540) to support Operation Thayer II. "C" Battery had the mission of GS 1st ACD and the battalion forward command post had the mission of reinforcing the 1/21st Artillery. On 20 December 1966, "A" Battery (-) moved to LZ Pony (BR 800832) and assumed the mission of reinforcing the 2/19th Artillery. On 25 December 1966, the battalion forward command post returned to An Khe (Base Camp). On 1 January 1967 the battalion forward command post returned to the Thayer AO, occupying a position vic Bong Son at LZ Two-Bits (BR 847946) with mission of GS 1st ACD. On 23 January 1967, "B" Battery moved to CQ 253353 with the mission of GSR the 5/27th Artillery. At the termination of the reporting period battalion forward command post is at LZ English (BR 875007), "B" Battery is in vic CQ 253353, "A" Battery is at LZ Pony (BR 800832), and "C" Battery is in the Vinh Thanh Valley (BR 615607).

2. During the reporting period all batteries of the battalion became composite 8" How/175mm Gun. This process was begun when "B" Battery moved to Tuy Hoa on 22 October 1966. This process required exchanging two weapons with the 6th Battalion, 14th Artillery.

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AVFA-AT-3/18

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period
end 31 January 1967 (Cont'd)

3. On 13 November 1966, "E" Battery (155mm How) was deactivated, General Order 3780, 1st ACD, dtd 13 November 1966, activated "D" Battery (155mm How), 2/17th Artillery. All 155mm peculiar equipment, and some personnel, were transferred to the 2/17th Artillery.

4. On 17-18 December 1966, the 1st ACD was heavily engaged in a battle which has become known as the "Battle of the 506 Valley". Highway 506 runs thru this valley (BR 850785) and was being upgraded by the 8th Engineer Battalion, 1st ACD, to permit "A" Battery to move by this route from LZ Crystal to LZ Pony. An attempt was made on 16 December 1966 to move "A" Battery by this route but it was found to be impossible due to road conditions. Prisoners captured after the "506 Battle" stated that the mission of the two VC battalions in the valley was (1) to ambush the battery that was to come up the road and (2) ambush the reaction force when committed. During the battle, "A" Battery fired in excess of 560 heavy artillery rounds during a seven (7) hour period. This represents approximately 51 tons of steel. During this period excellent support was provided the battery by the 1st ACD to include night resupply of ammunition and critical repair parts.

5. On 31 December 1966, a Low Level Extraction (LOLEX) resupply technique of artillery ammunition was accomplished vic LZ Pony. The ammunition was dropped from Air Force C-130 aircraft into the Lowlands surrounding LZ Pony, and CH-47 helicopters were used to accomplish final delivery into the battery area. Thirty-one of 150 8 inch powder charges were ruptured.

6. On 28 December 1966, BG Edward H. De Saussure, Commanding General, I Field Force Vietnam Artillery made his initial visit to "B" Battery and visited "A" and "C" Batteries on 11 January 1967.

7. On 18 January 1967, "C" Battery, under the command of Captain Joe A. Moore, fired its 25,000th round in country. BG De Saussure pulled the lanyard. This represents approximately 5 million pounds of steel or the equivalent of 176,800 105mm rounds.

8. During the reporting period a total of 305 firing battery days were spent away from base camp.

9. During the reporting period the battalion fired a total of 8798 missions (35 PREPS, 40 TOT, 225 WILL ADJUST, 8222 INTERDICTION, 276 others) with a total expenditure of 17,945 rounds. Since firing its first mission on 21 November 1965, the battalion has fired a total of 35,705 missions and expended 92,992 HE rounds, 477 WP and 542 ILL. Fuze utilization has been 89,905 PD, 2,511 CVT, 1,593 MTSQ, and 2 CP.

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AVFA-AT-3/18

29 January 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period
ending 31 January 1967 (Cont'd)

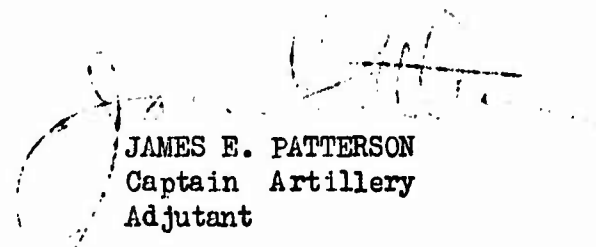
SECTION II: Commanders Observations and Recommendations

PART I: Observations: The LOLEX delivery system utilized on 31 December 1966 is an effective resupply technique, but presents problems such as burial of the pallets in the mud due to weight of the rounds, some fouling of the rounds due to mud and water, and, most important, rupture of the powder bags due to excessive shock.

PART II: Recommendations: That heavy artillery ammunition be delivered by the LOLEX technique only when no other delivery means is available.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

1 Incl
Statistical Summary of
Ammunition Expenditure


JAMES E. PATTERSON
Captain Artillery
Adjutant

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- 2 - CG, I Field Force Vietnam, APO 96350, ATTN: AVFA-GC-TNG
- 1 - CINCSARPAC, ATTN: GPOP-MH, APO 96558
- 3 - CG, USARV, ATTN: AVD-HIST, APO 96307
- 10 - CO, 52nd Artillery Group, ATTN: S-3, APO 96295

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AVFA-AT-52-S3 (29 Jan 67)

1st Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period Ending
31 January 1967 RCS(CSFOR-65)

HEADQUARTERS, 52D ARTILLERY GROUP, APO 96318, 4 Feb 67

TO: Commanding General, I Field Force Vietnam Artillery, APO 96350

1. Reference: I FFORCEV Arty msg AVHGC-EH 05300, subject: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for Period Ending 31 Jan 67, dtg 271135Z Jan 67.

2. Spelling errors have been corrected with pen and ink.

3. Information is current and appropriate.

4. The observation concerning LOLEX delivery of artillery ammunition is valid. The value of heavy artillery support to the supported unit should preclude the use of the LOLEX technique except under emergency condition.

5. Daily formal training is held in all units in fire direction and firing battery procedures to ensure individual and unit proficiency and accuracy of fires.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



HENRY H. PETERS
LTC, Arty
Adjutant

1 Incl
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AVFA-AT-D (29 Jan 67) 2nd Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period
Ending 31 January 1967 (RCS CSFOR)(3rd Bn, 18th Arty) (U)

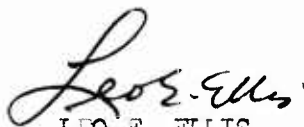
HEADQUARTERS, I FIELD FORCE VIETNAM ARTILLERY, APO 96350, 19 Feb 67

TO: Commanding General, I Field Force Vietnam, ATTN: AVFA-GC-O&T,
APO 96350

(U) Concur in observation and recommendation contained in basic communication.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

1 Incl
nc


LEO E. ELLIS
LTC, Arty
Adjutant

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AVFA-GC-OT (29 Jan 67)

3d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period
Ending 31 January 1967 (RCS CSFOR) (U)

HEADQUARTERS, I FIELD FORCE VIETNAM, APO 96350

TO: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, APO 96307

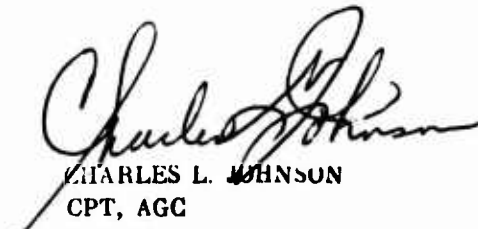
1. (U) This headquarters concurs with the contents of the Operational Report of Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967, and the preceding indorsements with the following exception.

2. (C) Reference Section 2, Part II - Recommendations:

The LOLEX delivery system is a tested and proven means of efficient delivery of supplies. There are many facets in the system, any of which could have been the cause of the damage, i.e., packing, type pallets or containers used, selection of drop zone, etc. Records of this headquarters indicate no record of an after action report which is required when damage is noted per paragraph 4(6), USARV Regulation 700-1.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

1 Incl
nc


CHARLES L. JOHNSON
CPT, AGC
Asst AG



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AVHGC-DH (29 Jan 67) 4th Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the Period Ending
31 January 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96307 31 MAR 1967

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-OT
APO 96558

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the period ending 31 January 1967 from Headquarters, 3d Battalion, 18th Artillery as indorsed.

2. Concur with the comments in the basic report and indorsements.

3. Reference paragraph 2, 3d indorsement. Unit will be requested to submit a report of damage in accordance with USARV Regulation 700-1, so that a proper evaluation may be made.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



R. J. THORNTON
1st Lt. AGC
[Asst Adjutant General]

1 Incl
nc

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GPOP-OT (29 Jan 67)

5th Ind (U)

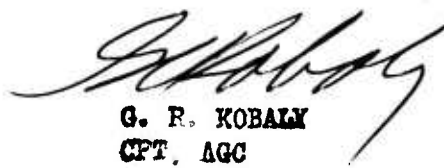
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the Period Ending
31 January 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65), HQ 3d Bn, 18th Arty

HQ, US ARMY, PACIFIC, APO San Francisco 96558 13 MAY 1967

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

This headquarters concurs in the basic report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:



G. R. KOBALY
CPT, AGC
Asst AG

1 Incl
nc

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Ammunition Expenditure

UNIT	8" HE	175 HE	TOTAL
A Btry	5199	2704	7903
B Btry	1305	744	2049
C Btry	4762	3231	7993
TOTAL	11,266	6,679	17,945

Fuze Utilization

UNIT	PD	MTSQ	CVT	TOTAL
A Btry	7815	2	86	7903
B Btry	1990	27	32	2049
C Btry	7988	0	5	7993
TOTAL	17,793	29	123	17,945

Mission By Type

UNIT	PREPS	TOT	WILL ADJUST	INTERDICTION	OTHER	TOTAL
A Btry	11	17	76	4834	115	5053
B Btry	22	19	20	769	71	901
C Btry	2	4	129	2619	90	2844
TOTAL	35	40	225	8,222	276	8,798

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